

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-8 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 9-16 as follows:

9. (New) An apparatus comprising at least one planar surface wherein at least two compartments are located and defined by a partition, the compartments creating a space which makes it possible to displace a liquid sample or to displace at least two liquid samples independently of one another, the compartments comprising at least two different types of groove:

- a deep groove, capable of partitioning samples from one another, the depth of the deep groove in relation to the partition being such that capillary action of a sample is not enabled, and
 - a shallow groove, capable of receiving a sample, the depth of the shallow groove in relation to the partition being such that capillary action is enabled,
- the two different types of grooves making it possible to direct sample movements by altering an orientation of the apparatus.

10. (New) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the width of each deep groove is such that capillary action is not enabled.

11. (New) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein at least one shallow groove is adjacent to a deep groove.

New National Stage Application
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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12. (New) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein at least one deep groove is adjacent to a shallow groove.

13. (New) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein a deep groove is positioned between two shallow grooves.

14. (New) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein one of the ends of the deep groove is free, and the two shallow grooves meet at this free end to create a reaction zone there, where at least two liquid samples may be brought together.

15. (New) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the distance between the reaction zone and the partition is such that capillary action is enabled.

16. (New) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the distance between the reaction zone and the partition is such that capillary action is not enabled.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the original abstract with the attached Substitute Abstract.